

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 06924 141616Z

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ACTION SS-25

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R 141406Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5892
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T AMMAN 6924

EXDIS

E.O. 11652 XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR MASS SY UR

SUBJECT: TALK WITH PRIME MINISTER RIFAI-- ASAD'S VISIT TO MOSOW

1. MORING OCTOBER 14 PRIME MINISTER GAVE ME FOLLOWING
READOUT BASED ON JORDANIAN CONTACTS WITH SYRIANS ON ASAD'S
VISIT OCTOBER 10 TO MOSCOW.

2. RIFAI SAID VISIT WAS DESIGNED TO ACCOMPLISH TWO PURPOSES:
(A) TO SOLICIT THE SINAI ACCORD AND (B) TO ARRANGE WITH THE
SOVIETS FOR THE PROVISIONS OF MORE SOPHISTICATED MILITARY
EQUIPMENT. ON POINT (A) RIFAI SAID SYRIANS HAD BEEN VERY
UNHAPPY THAT THE ONLY CONCRETE SOVIET STATEMENT ON THE
SINAI ACCORD HAD BEEN IN A PROVDA ARTICLE. ON (B) HE
INDICATED THAT SYRIANS WERE PLEASED WITH THE QUALITY OF
SOVIETWEAPONRY THEY HAD RECEIVED BUTWERE VERY UNHAPPY
ABOUT SOVIET RELUCTANCE TO PROVIDE THEM WITHINCREASINGLY
MORE SOPHISTICATED MILITARY HARDWARE. ON THE LATTER POINT
HE ASSUMED SYRINAS WOULD USE EXTENSIVELY FOR PURPOSES OF ARGUMENT
WITH
SOVIETS REPORTS ON THE EQUIPMENT WHICH THE US HAD AGREED
OR WAS WILLING TO CONIDER PROVIDING TO THE ISRAELIS AS A
RESULT OF THE SINAI ACCORD.

3. RIFAI SAID HE HAS HAD A REPORT FROM DAMACUS THAT

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ASAD HAS COME BACK VERY PLEASED. KHADDAM AND TLAS ARE

STAYING ON TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS WITH THE DETAILS WITH THE SOVIETS.

RIFAI

BELIEVES THAT THE SOVIETS WILL MAKE A NEGATIVE STATEMENT ON
THE SINAI ACCORD AND THAT TLAS IS NEGOTIATION THE DETAILS
OF WEAPONS SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT WHICH HAVE BEEN AGREED UPON
IN PRINCIPLE. TLAS AND KHADDAM ARE EXPECTED BACK IN DAMASCUS
THURSDAY. RIFAI SAID SHORTLY THEREAFTER HE SHOULD HAVE A COMPLETE
READ OUT ON THEIR PART OF THE VISIT AND THAT HE EXPECTS
TO GET A GOOD INDICATION OF WHAT THE SYRIANS WILL RECEIVE
IN THE WAY OF NEW MILITARY EQUIPMENT COMMITMENTS FROM
THE SOVIET UNION.
PICKERING

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NNN

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